

# UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science Newsletter

Volume 2018  
Issue 5 *UMCCTS Newsletter July 2018*

Article 1

2018-07-01

## UMCCTS Newsletter, July 2018

UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science

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### Repository Citation

UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science . UMCCTS Newsletter, July 2018. *UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science Newsletter* 2018(5):1078. <https://doi.org/10.13028/d48b-rf91>.

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## CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

### July 2018 Volume 4, Issue 8

We hope you enjoy this newsletter which is full of helpful information and opportunities! Also, be sure to check out our website at:

<https://umassmed.edu/ccts>



#### Mind the Gap NIH Webinar Series

#### Stepped Wedge Cluster Randomized Designs for Disease Prevention Research

July 11, 2018

11:00 a.m.–12:00 noon ET

Monica Taljaard, Ph.D.

Senior Scientist, Clinical Epidemiology Program

Professor, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute

Associate Professor, School of Epidemiology and Public Health

University of Ottawa

#### ABOUT THIS WEBINAR

The stepped wedge cluster randomized design has seen a rapid increase in popularity over the past decade. It is different than the conventional parallel arm cluster randomized design in that all clusters (e.g., communities, schools, or hospitals), rather than half, receive the intervention. This presentation will:

- Explain the unique characteristics of the stepped wedge cluster randomized design and its implications for sample size calculation and analysis.
- Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of stepped wedge design compared to traditional designs.

#### ABOUT DR. TALJAARD

Dr. Monica Taljaard is a Senior Scientist in the Clinical Epidemiology Program at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute (OHRI) and Associate Professor in the School of Epidemiology and Public Health at the University of Ottawa. She has a Ph.D. in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from Western University, and her main research interests are in the design, analysis, and ethics of cluster randomized trials.

**Dr. Taljaard will accept questions during the webinar via WebEx and Twitter. Use the hashtag #NIHMTG.**

#### Registration is Required

Please note the registration page may not work in Firefox.

Can't be there? A recording of this webinar will be available approximately one week after the session. You can view the full archive of previous Mind the Gap webinars on our website.

This event is open to the public. Please feel free to share this information widely.

For more information, please contact the Office of Disease Prevention at [MindtheGap@od.nih.gov](mailto:MindtheGap@od.nih.gov).

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### Register Now for the NCATS and FDA Gene Therapy Approaches to Rare Diseases Workshop

Gene-based therapy is a promising and cutting-edge approach for the treatment of rare diseases. While these tailored therapies offer hope for patients, there are still many unanswered questions.

To help facilitate discussion among academic, government and industry researchers, [NCATS](#) and the Food and Drug Administration's [Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research](#) will co-host "The Growing Promise of Gene Therapy Approaches to Rare Diseases" workshop on Aug. 20-21, 2018. The event will take place at the National Institutes of Health main campus in Bethesda, Maryland. The goals of this two-day workshop include:

1. Reviewing the state of current gene therapy approaches;
2. Identifying challenges to and strategies for advancing gene therapy research; and
3. Discussing how to collaboratively scale and accelerate gene therapy development to benefit patients with rare diseases that currently lack effective treatments.

[Register now.](#)

[View the agenda.](#)

[Learn more about the event](#)



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### \*\*\*FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES\*\*\*

#### **CCTS SPARK Program**

Application Deadline: Rolling Basis

THE UMCCTS SPARK (Small Pilot and Research Knowledge) Program's priorities are to support studies that impact clinical care and research methodologies, support students and trainees, and provide access to funds to generate pilot and preliminary data for external grant submissions.

For more information please see <https://umassmed.edu/ccts/funding/spark-program/>

#### **CCTS Small Conference Grants**

Application Deadline: Rolling Basis

THE UMCCTS is pleased to offer Small Conference Grants (SCG). This funding facilitates the development of faculty-to-faculty networks within the University system.

For more information please see <https://umassmed.edu/ccts/funding/small-conference-grants/>

#### **Funding Opportunities for the Rare Diseases Clinical Research Network (RDCRN)**

The National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) Office of Rare Diseases Research (ORDR) is pleased to announce that two Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) have published for the Rare Diseases Clinical Research Network (RDCRN).

##### **Rare Diseases Clinical Research Consortia (RDCRC)**

We are inviting applications for new and renewal applications of the Rare Diseases Clinical Research Consortia that comprise the RDCRN. The RDCRCs are intended to advance the diagnosis, management, and treatment of rare diseases with a focus on clinical trial readiness. Each RDCRN will promote highly collaborative, multi-site, patient-centric, translation and clinical research with the intent of addressing unmet clinical trial readiness needs.

##### **Data Management and Coordinating Center (DMCC)**

We are inviting applications for the Data Management and Coordinating Center (DMCC) for the RDCRN. The DMCC will facilitate and support the activities of each RDCRC along with trans-network activities that broadly facilitate the advancement of rare diseases research via four Cores: 1) Administrative; 2) Data Management; 3) Clinical Research; and 4) Engagement and Dissemination.

The full criteria and description for both new FOAs are published here:

1. RDCRC: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-TR-18-020.html>
2. DMCC: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-TR-18-021.html>

Please contact Nate Hafer ([Nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu](mailto:Nathaniel.hafer@umassmed.edu)) for more information or if you are interested in applying.

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### \*\*\*Save The Date\*\*\*

#### **UMMS-Baystate Celebration of Research and Academic Innovation**

Please join us for our annual daylong Celebration of Research and Academic Innovation on September 12th, 2018. This year our Keynote Speaker will be Dr. David Asch, MD, MBA, Executive Director of the Penn Medicine Center for Health Care Innovation & Professor of Health Care Management, the Wharton School. He will present Behavioral Economics: Understanding how patients & physicians make medical choices in clinical, financial, and ethically charged settings" at Grand Rounds (8:00 am in Chestnut 1A/B) and also give a noon-time lecture (Chestnut 5).

In addition for an opportunity to "Meet the Professor" (Dr. Asch), there will be symposia and workshops on a variety of topics throughout the day with the goal of promoting research among Baystate faculty and staff. From 9:00am to 6:00 pm posters will be available for viewing in the Health Sciences Library, Chestnut Conference Center.

To submit a poster, please email it to: [AcademicWeek@BaystateHealth.org](mailto:AcademicWeek@BaystateHealth.org) by 5PM on Wed., August 1<sup>st</sup>. Questions? Contact Susan Decelle, [Susan.Decelle@baystatehealth.org](mailto:Susan.Decelle@baystatehealth.org)

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### \*\*\*Learning Opportunities\*\*\*

#### **K Club 2.0**

The UCCTS Research Career & Writing Group (K-Club 2.0) was established in 2007. The group meets every first and third Wednesday to provide information and feedback on academic career development and on preparing a Research Career Award application (NIH K Awards, VA Research Career Awards, CTSA K12 grants, etc.). Faculty receive feedback on CV developments, help on preparing NIH biosketches as well as a wealth of other information.

Where: 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 4:00pm - 5:00pm in AS6-2072

More information: [www.umassmed.edu/ccts/education/k-club](http://www.umassmed.edu/ccts/education/k-club)

#### **I Corps Program**

##### **APPLY NOW!**

##### **Application Deadline September 17, 2018.**

Does your latest discovery have commercial value? Would a potential "customer" of your research welcome your technology, protocol, or intervention?

The **I-Corps Program at the UMCCTS**, a joint MassTERi/UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science (UMCCTS) initiative, is designed to support the translation of biomedical research by providing early-stage education and strategic guidance to faculty, staff and students during the ideation phase of technology development.

Course starts on October 23, 2018. Please go to:

<https://umassmed.edu/ccts/education/i-corps-program-at-the-umccts/>

Questions? Contact Nate Hafer at 508-856-2511

#### **University of Massachusetts Medical School** **Transdisciplinary Training in Cardiovascular Research (T32)**

##### **Request for Trainee Applications**

UMass has a cardiovascular T32 training grant entitled "Transdisciplinary Training in Cardiovascular Research" under the direction and senior leadership of Drs. Catarina Kiefe and John Keaney. The program represents a unique opportunity for the institution to promote the entire spectrum (T0 – T5) of cardiovascular research on our campus. We are writing to request applications from trainees who wish to become part of this exciting program at the postdoctoral level. New trainees will join 4 other current trainees in the program.

For more information, including how to apply, contact Rebecca Gigliello at [Rebecca.Gigliello@umassmed.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Gigliello@umassmed.edu)

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### CTSA Program hubs collaborate to help researchers navigate regulatory environment

Three North Carolina Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Program hubs have collaborated to create a platform for sharing regulatory expertise and best practices. The Regulatory Guidance for Academic Research of Drugs and Devices (ReGARDD) Program provides researchers with regulatory guidance, education, and consultative support, to ultimately help them move promising products and novel discoveries to clinical trials.

ReGARDD, which is coordinated by the hubs at Duke University, the Wake Forest School of Medicine, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-Chapel Hill) with partner RTI International, officially launched in 2015 and has been developing since. The program builds upon the existing services and knowledge of the North Carolina CTSA Program Regulatory Groups and the Research Triangle Park (RTP).

>> **READ THE FULL STORY.**

**Visit the ReGARDD Program website.**

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### \*\*\*Share Your Success!!\*\*\*

Have you had research published that cites the UMass Center for Clinical and Translational Science? Has a patent been filed on technology developed using Center funding or resources? Did your pilot project receive external grant funding? Share it with us at [ccts@umassmed.edu](mailto:ccts@umassmed.edu). Sharing your successes helps show the importance and the effect of the Center for Clinical and Translational Science at UMass.

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STAY CONNECTED



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